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## PERCY KITER, 13, CONFESSED TO CAUSING THE DEATH OF HIS CHUM IN FIGHT ON RIVER BANK

ADOLPH VAN WALLEGHEN'S  
BODY PUT IN RIVER TO FOOL  
OFFICERS, HE ADMITTED.

### Weird Tale Was Unfolded Friday

A crime that has never been equalled in this section of the state because of the age of those involved, was uncovered by Gratiot County officials last Friday when they secured a confession from Percy Kiter, thirteen, and a confirming confession from Donald Smith, both living near St. Louis, that Kiter had caused the death of Adolph Van Walleghen, the fourteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Walleghen, living on a farm near St. Louis, on Wednesday, May 31, during a fight between the dead lad and Kiter.

Kiter also admitted that he had forced young Smith to aid him in covering up the evidences of the crime, by undressing the body of Van Walleghen, and putting the body into Pine river to make the affair seem like a case of drowning. Fearing Kiter, because of threats he made if Smith told of the affair, the officers had some real difficulty in getting the little Smith lad to tell what he knew of the affair, the reluctance of the lad to tell what he knew apparently coming from a real fear of Kiter, whom Smith saw cause the death of Van Walleghen.

The tales that the lads unfolded to the officers, at a time when one of the lads was not present to overhear the story of the other co-incided in all details, assuring the officials the correctness of the accounts. In silent wonder the officers listened to the weird story of the lads who pictured to them the various scenes which led up to the fight that resulted on the "high banks" about 3-4 of a mile up from the St. Louis dam, and death of Van Walleghen, and the subsequent attempt to dispose of the body to hide the crime.

Prosecuting Attorney Romaine Clark Friday evening detailed the affair to a representative of The Record, as gleaned by the officers from the confessions made by the two lads.

It seems that on Wednesday, May 31, the lads, Van Walleghen, Smith and Kiter, started for the "high banks," and on the way Van Walleghen and Kiter quarreled over some goods that Kiter is said to have stolen and Van Walleghen, is said to have threatened to squeal about them. During this argument Kiter is said to have threatened Van Walleghen. Reaching the "high banks" the lads started quarreling anew, over the possession of a pipe. Van Walleghen, the lads admitted, sat down on the edge of the bank and started to unlace his shoes, when Kiter struck him. Van Walleghen jumped to his feet to protect himself from Kiter, who again struck him and at the same time tripped him.

In falling Van Walleghen went over the edge of the bank, falling from fifteen to twenty feet down the steep bank, and struck his head on the limb of a tree on the ground at the edge of the river.

Kiter scrambled down the bank and again attacked Van Walleghen, pounding his head against the limb, but had hardly started this before he noticed blood coming from Van Walleghen's nose and mouth, which caused him to stop, it is said.

Kiter is said to have admitted that he then pulled Van Walleghen to the edge of the river, so that his head lay partly in the water, and grabbing a forked stick nearby, pushed it down around Van Walleghen's neck which caused the marks, which the officers found on the neck of Van Walleghen's body when they took it from Pine river last Thursday about noon.

Kiter then forced young Smith, it is said both lads admitted, to aid him in undressing the body of Van Walleghen, and to aid him in shoving the body into the river. Kiter then used the limb of the tree to shove the body out from the shore. Kiter then admitted, noticed some spots of blood on the back of Walleghen's shirt, near the neck-band, and he stopped long enough to wash the shirt, and pile Van Walleghen's clothes in a neat pile. The lad evidently believing that when the clothes were found on the river bank, it would be taken for granted that Van Walleghen had drowned.

Threatening dire results to Smith if he ever told, the lads then started to leave the "high banks," but just as they reached the top of the bank, Kiter is said to have returned to the edge of the river where Van Walleghen's clothes were piled, and to have taken ten cents from his pocket, put it in his own and then walked off.

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### EXPRESS CONFIDENCE

The following item from last Friday's Saginaw Courier, will be of interest locally, as Rev. Brownlow was formerly pastor of the M. E. church in this city:

"The quarterly conference of the First Methodist Church, in session here, adopted resolutions of confidence in Rev. T. G. R. Brownlow, who was barred from the Memorial Day program by the local post of the American Legion on the ground of alleged unsympathetic conduct toward service men."

### HIT BY AUTOMOBILE

Immediately following the physical training exhibition of the Alma Public Schools at Republic field Wednesday evening, Irma Sutfin, twelve year old daughter of U. R. Sutfin of Grace avenue, was struck by an automobile on East Superior street, near the Christian church, and suffered a fractured left arm. She was quickly rushed to a local physician's office after the accident and then removed to her home.

### Makes a Good Late Season Hog Pasture

Rape, a crop which may be sown until July 1, or even later if weather conditions are favorable, is one of the best hog pastures, according to Prof. W. E. J. Edwards, of the Michigan Agricultural College animal husbandry department.

"For best results, however, this crop should be sown at once," says Edwards. "Use about five pounds of seed of the Dwarf Essex variety broadcast per acre. If the soil is light, it is often preferable to sow in drills about twenty-eight inches apart, using three or four pounds of seed to the acre. By cultivating between the rows, the weeds can be kept down and a stronger crop is produced."

## SALVATION ARMY DRIVE CONTINUES

### CONTINUE DRIVE THIS WEEK WAS THE DECISION MADE ON MONDAY.

Officials, committee chairman, captains of teams and friends of the Salvation Army met Monday noon for a banquet at the Chamber of Commerce rooms in the city hall, and heard some enthusiastic addresses by P. W. Creaser, J. L. Winslow, Mrs. Henry Soule, Mrs. Francis King, Mrs. William Bahke, R. B. Wagner, Mrs. Sylvia Gaffney and Charles G. Rhodes, in regard to the work of the Army and the need for raising the quota of \$3,950 in the county.

Rev. W. L. Gelston, president of the Federated Churches presided at the meeting in place of H. S. Babcock, who was called out of the city.

Considerable spirit was shown by those present, and under the leadership of those in charge an organization was completed for a thorough canvass of the city. R. B. Wagner was selected as chairman of the Cobalt Division and has charge of the downtown solicitation.

Frank F. Smith was appointed as chairman of the advanced gifts committee, and some very good results have already been achieved. It is expected that this committee will function very satisfactorily.

J. W. Blakely and Glenn Crisp were appointed as chairman of the industrial committee.

The balance of the county is very thoroughly organized and it is expected from word received by the various chairmen of the districts that they will achieve their quotas.

Ithaca, with a quota of \$750, is well organized. Grace Rowell is the chairman there, and she is being assisted by Belle J. Price as campaign director. The city is organized by wards and four teams are busy in the downtown district. Monday, while in Alma attending the meeting Grace Rowell gave a very good talk at the meeting.

St. Louis campaign is in charge of C. A. Rehle, as chairman, with Dr. Pettit as campaign manager.

Alma to date has raised only \$750 of the quota that is being sought, and no reports have been received from outside territory. The campaign will close this week Saturday and all chairmen are urged to have their reports in as quickly as possible. Campaign headquarters will be open until midnight.

The College Seniors Present "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the Strand Monday night.—advertisement

### Rudick Sells the Republic Pool Hall

Frank Rudick has sold the Republic Billiard Hall, which he has conducted here for the past five and one-half years, to Lewis W. Herahy of Mt. Pleasant, who took possession of the business Saturday morning.

Mr. Rudick, who has the agency for Stroh's temperance beer in Gratiot, Saginaw, Isabella and Clare Counties, has found that the agency was demanding practically all of his time, because of the rapidly increasing business and this actuated him to dispose of the pool and billiard hall which he had been conducting in this city for some years. The pool and billiard hall includes several tables, lunch counter, etc., and is located over the Glass & Hannah hardware. In the future Mr. Rudick will devote his entire time to his agency.

Mr. Herahy, who took over the business, Saturday, has formerly been in the pool and billiard room business, and in coming to Alma is planning on making a number of improvements and changes in the Republic Billiard Hall, which he believes are in keeping with any up-to-date establishment of this kind.

## MERCHANTS FREE ENTERTAINMENT

### ALMA MERCHANTS PLAN FOR EVENT EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT DURING SUMMER.

The Alma Merchants Bureau has decided to offer the people of Alma and the surrounding country something different in the way of real entertainment during the summer months, something more attractive than the ordinary band concert, which can be heard almost any time and at almost any place. As a result the Merchants Bureau at considerable expense has arranged for free vaudeville on the streets of the city every Wednesday evening during the summer months, insuring the people of this vicinity of something new and something different each and every week.

The first of the affairs to be held weekly during the summer was given on Wednesday evening of this week, the Alma merchants giving to their patrons of this section five big free acts of vaudeville, which proved to be highly interesting and entertaining. Stunts that are not ordinarily seen were on the bill and kept the crowd interested from the start to finish. It took nearly an hour and a half for the five acts to be carried through.

The free vaudeville was followed by a big street dance on the pavement a fine ten piece orchestra furnishing the music for the event, an orchestra that has been furnishing music for some of the largest dances that have been held in this part of the state during the past several months. A large crowd took advantage of the opportunity to dance to the strains of the music furnished by the orchestra, and it is certain that the crowd so thoroughly enjoyed itself that a still larger crowd will be on hand for the treat that is in store for next week.

Annual Senior Play  
The annual play to be given by the senior class of Alma College will be given Monday evening at the Strand theatre. This year's class has selected Wilde's satirical comedy on English life, "The Importance of Being Earnest," as the play to be given, and for some weeks the cast has been working for the production, which promises to be an unusually good one, as the cast is a very strong one. Tickets are now on sale with members of the senior class or may be obtained Monday at the Strand box office. The curtain will rise promptly at 8:15 Monday evening.

Pay Stiff Fines  
Roy Butler and William Smith, two of the number rounded up by local officers about ten days ago because of their activities in attempting to put a wet spot in an otherwise arid region, after cooling their heels in the county jail for about ten days were taken before Judge E. J. Moinet in circuit court Tuesday, where they were handed out fines of \$100.00 each and costs of \$50.00 each, for selling, having in their possession and transporting liquor.

Elks Flag Day  
Next Wednesday, June 14, is Flag day and the Elks are to hold their regular flag day exercises in their lodge rooms, in the evening. The G. A. R., the Women's Relief Corps, the American Legion and Auxiliary and other patriotic organizations have been invited. Besides the ritualistic work of the Elks Rev. M. W. Duffey will give an address and good soloists will sing. The public is invited to be present. The exercises will commence promptly at 8:00 o'clock.

Don't fail to see the Senior Play Monday night.—adv.

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES TO START SUNDAY

"THE INDIVIDUAL IN A MORE  
SOCIALIZED WORLD," BACCALAUREATE SUBJECT.

### King is Speaker at Commencement

The commencement week activities at Alma College will open Sunday evening with the baccalaureate address to be given by President H. M. Crooks at the First Presbyterian Church. From that time on until after the commencement exercises Wednesday, there will not be an idle moment.

The subject of the baccalaureate address to be given by President Crooks Sunday evening, will be "The Individual in a More Socialized World."

The feature of Monday will be the final chapel service of the year to be held at 10:00 a. m., at which time the awarding of letters to athletes, orators and debaters, and other honors will be held. It will be the first time since 1915 that letters have been awarded to a championship baseball team at Alma College and has the promise of being an out-of-the-ordinary event.

A musical tea at Wright Hall in the afternoon and the senior play in the evening at the Strand theatre, will complete Monday's activities.

Tuesday will see the breaking of ground for the new memorial gymnasium-auditorium, for which the surveying class conducted by Professor F. N. Notestein, is now doing the surveying. The college hopes to have numerous old athletes, and especially captains of teams on hand to throw a few spadefuls of dirt. It is expected that Watson B. Robinson of New York, captain of Alma's first championship team will be present. Certain it is that Captain Crittenden, of Alma's latest title outfit will be there. This feature will be held at 5:00 p. m. At noon Tuesday an Alumni luncheon will be held in the college grove, and at 3:00 p. m. the Alumni ball game will be held. Tuesday morning the trustees will meet and consider the bids of the contractors for the gymnasium, and go into some important matters relating to the faculty, and to the endowment campaign. It is possible that the trustees may also vote some honorary degrees at the Tuesday meeting.

Tuesday evening the senior promenade will be held, and will be followed by the president's reception at the home of President and Mrs. Crooks.

Wednesday morning the academic procession will start from Wright hall at 9:45 a. m., and will march to the college chapel, where at 10:00 a. m. the annual commencement exercises are to be held, at which time twelve seniors will complete their college courses. President Henry Churchill King, LL. D., of Oberlin College, Ohio, will give the commencement address, the subject being "The Fine Art of Living." It is expected that some vital announcements regarding the college will be made at the commencement exercises by President Crooks. Immediately following the commencement exercises the commencement luncheon will be held at Wright Hall.

Highfield Buys  
W. E. Zank who purchased the Corner Drug Store from W. W. Slavson about a year ago, has sold his interests in the drug business to Allen G. Highfield of Alma, who will take possession at once. Mr. Zank will enter the fox business, being connected with the farm recently purchased from Bryant E. Avery, two and one-half miles west of Greenville. This location was purchased several weeks ago by Claude C. Cole of Muskegon. He will retain his residence in Greenville.

Mr. Highfield has operated a drug store in Alma for the past seven years and comes here highly recommended. He will take possession at once and will continue to operate the business in a manner pleasing to the Greenville people. The location will be known as the Highfield Pharmacy. Mr. Highfield is a member of both the Masons and the Elks.—Greenville Independent.

Appreciation  
It is with regret that I announce that due to rapidly growing business I have found it advisable to dispose of The Republic Billiard Hall in order that I may devote my entire time to the agency for Stroh's beer in Gratiot, Isabella, Clare and Saginaw counties. I take pleasure in expressing my high appreciation of the hearty patronage that has been accorded me during the five and one-half years I have conducted the business and urge its continuance with my successor. Frank Rudick.

### Firm Held Its Formal Opening

Giles & Archer, Alma agents for the new Durant automobiles, held their formal opening Saturday evening, with an event that was somewhat unusual, and which drew a large crowd to inspect the new line of automobiles and to enjoy the evening.

The new pavement in front of the Giles-Archer stores was roped off for the evening and all comers were given an opportunity to dance on the pavement until 10:30, the firm furnishing a high class orchestra to give the musical strains that were needed for the dance. All during the entire evening a large crowd was present at the formal opening, inspecting the new line of automobiles and enjoying a few turns on the pavement as the orchestra rendered the various dance numbers.

Several of the new Durant models were on display during the evening at headquarters of the Alma agents on Woodworth avenue, and the entire force was kept busy during the evening explaining the various points of the new automobiles to the public.

## VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTIONS

### NOT LEGAL, SAYS CREASER, AFTER ATTORNEYS APPROVE PAVING BOND ISSUES.

At a special meeting of the city commission held Saturday afternoon a heated discussion of the resolutions to be passed regarding the issuance of the special assessment bonds for the paving of North Woodworth avenue, W. Downie street and West End street arose in which Commissioner Creaser evidently endeavored to convince the rest of the commission that the city commission did not have the legal right to go through the proceedings that they were going through in regard to the special assessment bond issues for this paving work, although the various steps looking towards the special assessment bond issue for this paving had been gone over in advance by the city attorney, William A. Bahke, and the steps, that had been taken up to that time, had been approved by the attorneys of the Detroit Trust Company, to whom the bonds had been awarded, and who certainly would not advise the Detroit Trust to purchase the bonds, if they were not legally issued.

The attorneys of the Detroit Trust Company had passed on the various steps in the matter up to that time and had even approved the form of the resolution, which was up for passage, and which in their opinion evidently made the bonds legal in every way, as these attorneys certainly would not o. k. legal steps on a probable illegal bond issue and possibly put the Detroit Trust Company in a position where it could not collect on the bonds. That in itself is sufficient proof that every step that has been taken by the city is regular.

When the vote was taken on the various resolutions for the paving on the three streets, which carry special assessment bond issues totalling \$29,265.68, for the work on these streets, the commissioners, including Mayor Murphy, and excepting Commissioner Creaser, voted for the resolutions.

Commissioner Creaser voted against them and asked that his reasons for voting against the resolutions be made a part of his vote. A legal opinion showed that this could not be done. Commissioner Creaser then wrote out his reasons for voting against the special assessment bond issues, and asked that the city clerk file the reasons.

Following will be found just what Commissioner Creaser wrote out and filed with the clerk:

"Believing that the City Charter does not give us the right and even if it did it should first be submitted to a vote of the people;

And also it is dangerous precedent to establish, I vote no on the resolution.

P. W. Creaser."

### BANK CLEARINGS

The First State Bank reports clearings for the week of \$86,561.29, as against clearings for the current week of last year of \$79,148.81, showing a decided increase in favor of the current week over last year, which taken with the increase of clearings in recent weeks over the same weeks last year indicates a healthy improvement in business locally at least. Last week the clearings were \$148,804.15, and they showed a fine increase over the corresponding week of a year ago.

Girls Gingham Dresses a large assortment to chose. Sizes from 3 to 6 years, will go on sale for 79c at D. W. Robinson's, Alma, Mich.—advertisement.

## ALBERT BACH, FARMER, HIT BY A SPEEDING AUTOMOBILE DIED IN AN ALMA HOSPITAL

### SPECIAL PROGRAM

The Methodist Sunday school will give their Children's Day program on Sunday, June 11, at 10:30 o'clock. The program consists of Processional March and songs with flowers and branches, recitations, exercises and songs by the different departments of the Sunday school. Several patriotic numbers will be given as Betsy Ross and Washington.

Flag drill by twelve girls.  
Flag song by twelve boys.

### CIRCUS COMING TO ALMA

John Robinson's circus will appear in Alma on Saturday, June 24, the advance man for the show coming to Alma today to make the needed arrangements.

### Blooded Stallion

#### Added to Herds

Langwater Model, a two year old Clydesdale stallion from the finest blood of his breed, has just been added to the Michigan Agricultural College herds of pedigreed draft horses.

Langwater Model is an aristocrat of the horse world. His sire, Fairholme Footprint, has three times been international champion of his breed. A full brother stood second in a strong class at the 1920 International Show in Chicago, and Langwater Model himself was a third place winner at the famous show last year. He comes from a strain which reaches the culmination in America of the most famous line of Clydesdale sires.

The acquisition of the Clydesdale to head the college herd of this breed gives M. A. C. one of the best rounded draft horse herds in America. Champions in Percheron, Belgian, and Clydesdale classes are included in the herd, which has been winning ribbons consistently in state and national competition in recent years.

## POSTAL WORKERS MEET HELD HERE

### COUNTY POSTAL EMPLOYEES WELFARE ASS'N ORGANIZED AT ALMA MEETING.

Thursday evening the postal employees of the county and their wives met in the Alma Chamber of Commerce rooms in the city hall for the purpose of merging the welfare organizations of the various offices into a county organization. The meeting was attended by 123 postal workers and wives.

Exra L. Smith, acting postmaster of the Alma office, acted in the capacity of toastmaster at the banquet which was served. John Burns, postmaster at St. Louis, and Postmaster Gibbs of Ithaca responded for the larger offices and John Young of Riverdale, Marlie Slingluff of Elwell and Ernest Muscott of Breckenridge for the smaller offices of the county. John McLaughlin of Elwell spoke in behalf of the rural free delivery carriers of the county, Fred Delavan of Alma for the city carriers and L. R. May for the postal clerks.

At the business session which followed a Postal Employees Welfare Association was organized and officers were elected as follows: president, Leon R. May of Alma; vice president, Carl J. Willis of Bannister; secretary, Marlie Slingluff of Elwell. In addition to the officers the following executive committee was chosen: G. F. Coon of Ashley, John Young of Riverdale, Stanley Stone of Ithaca, M. D. Fisher of Elwell, and D. C. Eyer of North Star.

It was decided to hold meetings of the Postal Employees Welfare Association every three months and the next meeting will be held on Labor Day either at Rock lake or at Bass lake.

The Chamber of Commerce rooms were decorated with flags and with red, white and blue crepe paper for the postal employees function.

### WEATHER SUMMARY

The weather summary for May as reported by F. L. Delavan, local observer, shows a mean maximum temperature for the month of 75 degrees and a mean minimum of 59 degrees. The maximum was 89 degrees on May 11, and the minimum was 37 degrees on May 8.

The total precipitation for the month was 3.11 inches, the greatest amount in 24 hours being 1.3 inches on May 17. There were 11 days on which .01 or more inches of precipitation fell. There were 17 clear days during the month, 6 part cloudy and 8 cloudy.

CARL WITTERS, DRIVER OF CAR,  
IS BEING HELD BY POLICE  
PENDING INVESTIGATION.

### Balch Died Shortly After the Accident

Albert Balch, aged 70 years, a farmer living a short distance east and south of St. Louis, was so badly injured Wednesday when struck by an automobile driven by Carl Witter, the son of Charles Witter, Ely St. Crocker, that he died very soon after being taken to a hospital here. Indications at noon today were that Witter may face a charge of negligent homicide or manslaughter in connection with the accident which took place on Michigan avenue, just a short distance east of the Ruggles home.

County authorities headed by Prosecuting Attorney Clark, with city officials co-operating, were conducting an investigation into the affair at noon today, after having decided that there was no advantage to be gained by calling a coroner's jury, as the so called criminal investigation will serve to bring out the facts connected with the affair on which a possible prosecution will be based.

Just exactly how the accident took place was not entirely clear at noon today. It seems, however, that Balch who had been in Alma was on his way home when the accident occurred. He was evidently walking on the north side of the road. Reaching a point just east of the Ruggles home an automobile driven by Verne Colburn, a farmer living between Alma and St. Louis slowed down and Colburn invited Balch to ride with him.

In the space of a few seconds, an automobile came up from the rear, and struck Balch, hurling him into the ditch. Whether Balch had already started to cross the road or not, has not been clearly shown at noon, but indications are that he had hardly had time to turn towards the car when he was struck by the Ford racer, driven by Witter.

Just as quickly as possible an ambulance was called and the man was rushed to a hospital, where he died a few minutes later.

Witter and Ernest Lacey, who was with him in the Ford car when it hit Balch, were questioned by Chief Campbell and it is said that Witter voluntarily admitted that he was driving from 25 to 30 miles an hour, when he struck Balch. It is also said although not clearly shown yet that Witter did not have a license plate on the front of his car. If Witter was traveling at the rate that he is said to have admitted that he was going, inside of the corporation limits, there is no question but what he violated the speed laws, and also another law that requires the slowing down to ten miles an hour in passing a pedestrian.

While Prosecutor Clark had not fully determined what line of action might be taken at noon today, there is every indication that Witter will face a charge of either negligent homicide or manslaughter, and perhaps both.

### Seeks Information About Depot Park

The United States Department of Agricultural, farm management and farm economics branch, is seeking information in regard to the rose garden at the Union depot here in connection with a study of the social aspects of rural planning, one phase of which relates to landscape improvements about railway stations, and as a result of the information sent to the department by Mrs. King, president of the Civic Improvement League, this pretty little garden promises to be still more widely known over the country.

Information sent to the department shows the park to be about 300 feet by 16 feet, the idea of the park being originated by Mrs. King, at a time when the board of trade was contemplating the erection of a city sign to shut off some disagreeable views.

The information goes on to tell how, for three years Mr. and Mrs. King did the work in preparing the park each spring, etc., and the formation of a special committee of the Civic League to handle the work, how the work is now handled, the enjoyment that the traveling public gets from the rose garden, and how probably, this pretty little spot has aided in the development of flower gardens in Alma.

Mrs. Peter Terwilliger returned to her home in Portland Friday after spending several days in Alma, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Vought.